

PRESS RELEASE

Workforce Grants to Train 1,141 Workers, Create 223 New Jobs

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Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development

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NEWBURYPORT — More than \$1.49 million in Workforce Training Fund Program (WTFP) grants that will fund training for 1,141 workers and are expected to create 223 new jobs over the next two years were announced today by the Baker-Polito Administration.

The 12 awarded grants involving 20 companies will fund customized training that promotes job growth, retention, and increased opportunity for workers by enhancing businesses' productivity and their ability to grow their business in Massachusetts.

The Administration announced this round of \$1,491,532 in WTFP General Program Training Grants at MacDiarmid Machine in Newburyport. The company provides precision CNC (Computer Numeric Control) state-of-the-art machining and has grown over the last three decades into a 6,000 square foot facility with a wide variety of equipment. Its workers are undergoing WTFP funded training focused on updating quality management systems, so that the company can upgrade its certifications and prepare for growth opportunities in the aerospace and medical devices sectors.

Approximately \$6 million is currently available for additional Workforce Training Fund grants. Businesses are encouraged to visit WorkforceTrainingFund.org to learn more about how to use these grants to address workforce training needs.

"These investments keep our businesses at the forefront of new and emerging industries, create jobs and opportunity across Massachusetts, and allow our small businesses to remain competitive in a dynamic global market," said Governor Charlie Baker.

"This program makes strategic, demand-driven investments based on the skills that businesses say they need in their employees to thrive," said Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito.

The Workforce Training Fund is a program of the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development and is administered by Commonwealth Corporation, a quasi-public state agency that fosters partnerships between industry, education, and workforce organizations.

"Businesses that completed WTFP grants in 2018 had a job growth rate three times that of the state and national rates," said Commonwealth Corporation President and CEO Dr. J.D. LaRock. "These grants are a proven way to empower workers with new skills to advance their careers, while fueling the expansion of small businesses in Massachusetts."

Since the beginning of the Baker-Polito Administration, the Workforce Training Fund has awarded 673 grants totaling over \$58 million to train more than 50,000 workers from over 800 different Massachusetts businesses. This is expected to result in over 6,200 new jobs.

The Workforce Training Fund provides grants ranging from \$10,000 to \$250,000 to companies in Massachusetts to pay for employee training over a two-year period. Grant recipients contribute a matching investment of at least one dollar for each grant-dollar awarded, with wages paid to trainees during training hours included in that investment.

In addition to the General Program grants, the WTFP also offers an Express Grant program that subsidizes up to 50% of the cost for pre-qualified courses chosen from a database, and a Small Business Direct Access Program that subsidizes 100% of the cost for pre-qualified courses in highest demand.

In March, the Baker-Polito Administration announced \$7.48 million in WTFP grants that will fund training for almost 6,000 workers and is expected to create more than 1,100 new jobs over the next two years.

The following is a complete list of the grant recipients awarded Workforce Training Fund Grants today (listed by community):

Bourne

- Convention Data Services was awarded \$172,756 to train 150 workers; 10 additional jobs are expected by 2021.

Danvers

- Backer Hotwatt was awarded \$165,500 to train 22 workers; 12 additional jobs are expected by 2021.

Holyoke

- Westside Finishing Company was awarded \$201,600 to train 42 workers; 4 additional jobs are expected by 2021.

Mansfield

- Hub Folding Box Company was awarded \$187,600 to train 202 workers; 5 additional jobs are expected by 2021.

Newburyport

- MacDiarmid Machine was awarded \$48,000 to train 13 workers; 5 additional jobs are expected by 2021.

Somerville

- Formlabs was awarded \$141,616 to train 76 workers; 100 additional jobs are expected by 2021.

Swansea

- BayCoast Bank was awarded \$235,200 to train 371 workers; 30 additional jobs are expected by 2021. This grant was awarded to a consortium of businesses which also includes BayCoast Mortgage Company of Swansea, Partners Insurance Group of Swansea, Plimoth Investment Advisors of Swansea, and Priority Funding of Northborough.

Westford

- Quality Support Group was awarded \$14,000 to train 4 workers; 1 additional job is expected by 2021.

Whitinsville

- Whitin Community Center was awarded \$74,800 to train 122 workers; 8 additional jobs are expected by 2021.

Woburn

- Pierce Property Services was awarded \$68,960 to train 19 workers; 20 additional jobs are expected by 2021.

Worcester

- MassMEP was awarded \$99,600 to train 52 workers; 20 additional jobs are expected by 2021. This grant was awarded to a consortium of businesses which also includes Ace Molding of Monson, Belt Technologies of Agawam, Kleeberg Sheet Metal of Ludlow, Mitchell Machine of Springfield, and Springfield Label & Tape of Springfield.
- Webster First Federal Credit Union was awarded \$81,900 to train 68 workers; 8 additional jobs are expected by 2021.

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EOLWD manages the Commonwealth's workforce development and labor departments to ensure that workers, employers, and the unemployed have the tools and training needed to succeed in the Massachusetts economy.

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